

HMPGR
The Path to Transformation
1115 Waiver Concept Paper

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 1115 Waiver for Illinois Medicaid.

I wanted to make a specific recommendation, particularly important for engaging the Medicaid population, in the area of Workforce Development, under Other Workforce Training:

I recommend that a statement about **Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)** be added, as a program that can help prepare, in particular personnel such as community health workers, care coordinators, in-home specialized personal attendants, peer counselors and nurses of all specialties. MHFA is an evidence based certificate program that much like CPR, prepares people on what to do until professional help arrives, increasing mental health literacy and decreasing stigma. It teaches a First Aid Action Plan that help individuals assess for early signs of mental disorders and how to engage in getting appropriate professional care. This training has been proven to will give participants an increased level of competency and comfort when dealing with signs of mental disorders and this will be particularly important when serving the waiver population. (more information on MHFA: <http://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/cs/background>)

4. Workforce. Illinois will build a 21st century health care workforce that is ready to practice in integrated, team - based settings in geographies and disciplines that are in the greatest demand, including the ability to utilize community health workers and ensure all health professions are able to assume responsibility to the full extent of their education and training

4.c Other Workforce Training—The Path to Transformation waiver will invest in training and preparing healthcare providers, such as community health care workers, in - home specialized personal attendants, care coordinators, nurses of all specialties, physician assistants/nurse practitioners and physicians to work on primary care provider teams to assure that overall health improvement goals are achieved in addition to providing appropriate clinical care. Education in healthcare across the lifespan and disabilities is essential for our workforce to be prepared for the rapid growth of aging adults and people with disabilities. This workforce training will be implemented in cooperation with community colleges and other certification programs.

I appreciate your taking this feedback under consideration.

Thank you,

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